Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 17359

DEPT PASS USDA FOR FAS/CA/ESCS/POPE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, UR

SUBJECT: USSR SIX-MONTH AGRICULTURAL RESULTS

REF: MOSCOW 17023

SUMMARY: SIX-MONTH ECONOMIC SUMMARY SHOWS INCREASES IN MOST AREAS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION/INVESTMENT. OF PUBLISHED DATA, ONLY BUTTER PRODUCTION AND MILK PROCUREMENT FELL SHORT OF JANUARY-JUNE 1977 LEVELS. END SUMMARY.

- 1. SOWN AREA: REPORT SHOWS TOTAL SOWN AREA AT 217.9 MILLION HECTARES, COMPARED WITH 217.7 IN 1977. GRAIN AREA INCREASED BY 1.4 MILLION HECTARES TO 131.7 MILLION.
- 2. PRODUCTION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS: MEAT/EGG OUTPUT OF GOVERNMENT SECTOR (STATE/COLLECTIVE FARMS, INTERFARM COMPLEXES) WAS REPORTED TO BE UP SIX PERCENT. MILK PRODUCTION INCREASED ONLY MARGINALLY FROM JANUARY-JUNE 1977 LEVELS.
- 3. PROCUREMENT OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS: STATE PURCHASES OF MAJOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS WERE REPORTED AS FDLLOWS: UNCLASSIFIED

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- - - 1978 AS

- - JAN-JUNE JAN-JUNE PERCENT

- - 1977 1978 OF 1977

MEAT (MIL. TONS, LIVE WT) 7.3 7.8 106.8 MILK (MIL. TONS) - 30.6 30.5 99.7 EGGS (BIL. PIECES) 19.5 20.9 107.2

4. LIVESTOCK INVENTORIES: JULY 1 LIVESTOCK NUMBERS (NON-PRIVATE) WERE UP 2 PERCENT (CATTLE), 7 PERCENT (PIGS), 1 PERCENT (SHEEP/GOATS), AND 8 PERCENT (POULTRY) AS REPORTED IN REFTEL.

5. DELIVERY OF INPUTS: DELIVERY OF MINERAL FERTILIZERS TOTALED 40.9 MILLION TONS, UP 2.6 MILLION FROM JANUARY-JUNE 1977. PRODUCTION OF FEED ADDITIVES REACHED 1.3 MILLION TONS. DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT WAS AS FOLLOWS (000 PIECES): TRUCKS (127), TRACTORS (182) - TOTALING 14.3 MILLION HORSEPOWER, GRAIN COMBINES (53), CORN-PICKERS (5.1), POTATO DIGGERS (5.8), BEEF DIGGERS (7), FORAGE HARVESTERS (24).

6. INVESTMENT: STATE AND COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT TOTALED 14.1 BILLION RUBLES, UP 4 PERCENT FROM THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1977. LAND IMPROVEMENT MEASURES ACCOUNTED FOR 3.1 BILLION RUBLES, UP 5 PERCENT. AN ADDITIONAL 260,000 HECTARES WERE BROUGHT UNDER IRRIGATION, 270,000 HECTARES WERE DRAINED, AND 2.9 MILLION HECTARES OF PASTURE RECEIVED SUPPLEMENTAL WATER. LIVESTOCK COMPLEXES ADDED 1.7 MILLION PLACES FOR LIVESTOCK AND 5.5 MILLION FOR POULTRY.

7. STATE PRODUCTION OF FARM SUPPLIES AND COMMODITIES WAS REPORTED AS FOLLOWS:

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- JAN-JUNE AS PERCENT OF ITEM - - 1978 JAN-JUNE 1977 TRACTORS (000 PIECES) - 289 102 AGRIC MACHINERY (MIL RUBLES) 1,236 106 FEED/FORAGE EQUIP. (MIL RUBLES) 939 GRAIN COMBINES (000 PIECES) 56.3 108 COTTON HARVESTERS (000 PIECES) 4.7 103 MINERAL FERTILIZERS (MIL TONS) 50.3 104 CHEMICAL PLANT PROTECTANTS(000 TONS) 254 MEAT (MIL TONS) _ 4.3 108 1.5 103 SAUSAGE (MIL TONS) -BUTTER (000 TONS) - 675 97 WHOLE MILK (MIL TONS) - 12..7 103 VEGETABLE OIL (MIL TONS)-1.6 111

8. COMMENT: ABOVE DATA INDICATE GENERALLY STRONG PERFORMANCE IN THE MAJOR COMMODITIES WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGH DECEMBER IF GRAIN/FORAGE PRODUCTION CDNDITIONS REMAIN AS FAVORABLE AS CURRENTLY PERCEIVED. EXCEPTION MAY BE VEGETABLE OIL PRODUCTION WHERE SHARP DOWNTURN COULD OCCUR IN THE LAST QUARTER IF DEVELOPMENT

OF SUNFLOWER CROP CONTINUES BEHIND SCHEDULE AND/OR DISEASE SETS IN. LAGGING MILK/BUTTER PERFORMANCE IS POSSIBLY THE RESULT OF FOCALIZED FEED CONSTRAINTS OR A DIVERSION OF FLUID MILK/FATS TO CHEESE PRODUCTS AND OTHER USES.

OUTLOOK FOR FULFILLMENT OF INPUT PLANS IS MIXED. FERTILIZER DELIVERIES APPEAR TO BE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, AS DO TRACTOR DELIVERIES (THOUGH HORSEPDWER AT 78.6/TRACTOR IS WELL SHORT OF THE 10TH PLAN GOAL OF 84.0). UNLESS RATE INCREASES IN NEXT SIX MONTHS, DELIVERIES OF TRUCKS AND GRAIN COMBINES WILL FALL WELL SHORT OF

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